

**R156. Commerce, Occupational and Professional Licensing.**

**R156-76. Professional Geologist Licensing Act Rules.**

**R156-76-101. Title.**

These rules are known as the AProfessional Geologist Licensing Act Rules@.

**R156-76-102. Definitions.**

In addition to the definitions in Title 58, Chapters 1 and 76, as used in Title 58, Chapters 1 and 76, or these rules:

- (1) AASBOG@ means Association of State Boards of Geology.
- (2) AGeosciences@, as used in Subsection 58-76-302(4)(a), means an earth science degree, which results in sufficient geological knowledge to enable the practice of geology before the public.
- (3) AQualified individual@, as used in Section R156-76-302c, means a person who is licensed as a professional geologist in a recognized jurisdiction, or who otherwise meets the requirements for licensure as defined in Sections 58-76-302 and R156-76-302b and R156-76-302c.
- (4) "Practice of geology before the public" does not include the following aspects of paleontology:
  - (a) taxonomy;
  - (b) biologic analysis of organisms; or
  - (c) the human context of a site.
- (5) "Practice of geology before the public" does not include the following aspects of the practice of anthropology and archeology:
  - (a) archeological survey, excavation, and reporting;
  - (b) production of archeological plan views, profiles, and regional overviews; or
  - (c) investigation and reporting of artifacts or deposits that are modified or affected by past human behavior.
- (6) APrincipal@, as used in Subsection 58-76-603(2), means the licensee assigned to and personally accountable for the production of specified professional geologic projects within an organization.
- (7) ARecognized jurisdiction@, as used in Subsection R156-76-302d(2), means any state, district or territory of the United States that issues a license for a professional geologist, and whose licensure requirements include:
  - (a) a bachelors or post graduate degree in the geosciences from an accredited institution or equivalent foreign education as determined by the International Credentialing Association and the Division in collaboration with the board;
  - (b) documented qualifying experience requirements similar to the experience requirements found in Subsection 58-76-302(5) and Section R156-76-302; and
  - (c) passing the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and the ASBOG Principles and Practice of Geology (PG) Examination.
- (8) AUnprofessional conduct@, as defined in Title 58,

Chapters 1 and 76, is further defined, in accordance with Subsection 58-1-203(5), in Section R156-76-501.

**R156-76-103. Authority - Purpose.**

These rules are adopted by the division under the authority of Subsection 58-1-106(1) to enable the division to administer Title 58, Chapter 76.

**R156-76-104. Organization - Relationship to Rule R156-1.**

The organization of this rule and its relationship to Rule R156-1 is as described in Section R156-1-107.

**R156-76-302b. Qualifications for Licensure - Education Requirements.**

(1) In accordance with Section 58-76-302, the education requirements for graduates of an approved geoscience program are as follows:

(a) an earned bachelors or masters degree in geology from an accredited institution; or

(b) an earned bachelor or post-graduate degree in the geosciences from an accredited institution including the completion of a minimum of 24 semester or 36 quarter hours in upper level or graduate geology courses, which includes one or more of the following subject areas:

(i) structural geology;

(ii) geophysics;

(iii) sedimentology/stratigraphy/paleontology;

(iv) mineralogy/petrology/geochemistry;

(v) engineering geology/environmental geology;

(vi) hydrogeology/hydrology;

(vii) geomorphology/remote sensing;

(viii) economic geology/petroleum geology; and

(ix) field geology.

(2) In accordance with Section 58-1-302, an applicant who has been educated in a foreign country shall submit a course-by-course accreditation evaluation completed by International Credentialing Associates to determine program equivalency.

**R156-76-302c. Qualifications for Licensure - Experience Requirements.**

In accordance with Subsection 58-76-302(5), active professional practice requirements are clarified or established as follows:

(1) Professional practice shall be obtained after completing the minimum educational requirement for licensure.

(2) One year of active professional practice shall consist of a minimum of 2,000 hours of geological work experience under the supervision of a qualified individual, or in responsible charge as permitted by law.

(3) No more than 2,000 hours of active professional

practice may be gained in any 12 month period of time.

(4) Qualifying work engagements consist of a range of activities included in the practice of geology consisting of more than the performance or supervision of geological work activities that are routine, such as routine sampling, laboratory work, or geological drafting, where the elements of initiative, scientific judgment and decision-making are lacking.

(5) Three years of geologic research or teaching activity in upper division or graduate level geology classes at an accredited university is equivalent to one year of qualifying experience.

**R156-76-302d. Qualifications for Licensure - Examination Requirements.**

(1) In accordance with Subsection 58-76-302(6), except as otherwise provided in Subsection (2) or(3), the examination requirements for licensure as a professional geologist after January 1, 2004 are established as follows:

(a) the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (AFG@) Examination with a passing score as recommended by the ASBOG; and

(b) the ASBOG Principles and Practice of Geology (APG@) Examination with a passing score as established by the ASBOG.

(2) The ASBOG FG Examination shall not be required for an applicant who:

(a) has practiced as a principal for five years of the last seven years preceding the date of the license application;

(b) was not required to pass the ASBOG FG Examination for initial licensure from the recognized jurisdiction the applicant was originally licensed; and

(c) has passed the ASBOG PG Examination.

(3) The ASBOG FG and PG Examinations shall not be required for an applicant who:

(a) has practiced as a principal for five years during the last seven years preceding the date of the license application;

(b) has been licensed for 20 years preceding the date of the license application; and

(c) who was not required to pass the ASBOG FG and PG Examination for initial licensure from the recognized jurisdiction the applicant was originally licensed, but was required to pass a predecessor exam established by the recognized jurisdiction.

**R156-76-303. Renewal Cycle - Procedures.**

In accordance with Subsection 58-1-308(1), the renewal date for the two-year renewal cycle applicable to licensees under Title 58, Chapter 76, is established by rule in Section R156-1-308.

**R156-76-304. Exemption from Licensure.**

The exemption from licensure in Subsection 58-76-304(1) is defined or clarified as follows: An Aemployee@ or Asubordinate@,

as used therein and elsewhere in Title 58, Chapter 76, or these rules, means an individual who:

- (1) is not licensed as a professional geologist;
- (2) works with, for, or provides professional geologic services on work initiated by a person licensed as a professional geologist; and
- (3) works only under the administration, charge, control, command, authority, oversight, guidance, jurisdiction, regulation, management, and authorization of a person licensed as a professional geologist.

**R156-76-501. Unprofessional Conduct.**

"Unprofessional conduct" includes:

- (1) submitting an incomplete final plan, specification, report or set of plans to:
  - (a) a client, when the licensee represents, or could reasonably expect the client to consider the plan, specification, report or set of plans to be complete and final; or
  - (b) to a government official for the purpose of obtaining a permit;
- (2) failing as a principal to exercise responsible charge;
- (3) failing as a supervisor to exercise supervision of an employee, subordinate, associate or drafter; or
- (4) failing to conform to the accepted and recognized standards and ethics of the profession including those stated in the ~~A~~American Geological Institute's Guidelines for Ethical Professional Conduct@, April 2, 1999, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

**R156-76-601. Seal Requirements.**

- (1) In accordance with Section 58-76-601, the seal design and implementation shall be:
  - (a) each seal shall be a circular seal, 1-1/2 inches minimum diameter;
  - (b) each seal shall include the licensee's name, license number, "State of Utah", and ~~A~~Licensed Professional Geologist@;
  - (c) each seal shall be signed and dated with the signature and date appearing across the face of each seal imprint;
  - (d) each original set of final geologic map, cross-section, sketch, drawing, plan, or report prepared, as a minimum, shall have the original seal imprint, original signature and date placed on the cover or title sheet;
  - (e) a seal may be a wet stamp, embossed, or electronically produced; and
  - (f) copies of the original set of plans, specifications, reports, maps, sketches, surveys, drawings, documents and plats which contain the original seal, original signature and date are permitted, if the seal, signature and date is clearly recognizable.

KEY: licensing, professional geologists, geology  
Effective September 5, 2002

58-1-106(1)  
58-1-202(1)(a)  
58-76-101

**PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST  
LICENSING ACT RULES**

**R156-76  
Utah Administrative Code  
Issued September 5, 2002**